

Comments Regarding Desire to Serve on SC Standards Writing Teams

- She should serve on this committee to make sure that the standards implemented are research based and require best practices to be used in the classroom. Age appropriate and developmental stages must be considered when selecting these standards as well as scaffolding of content so that differentiation of instruction will allow for maximum student success.
- I am excited about collaborating with teachers and administrators concerning the most appropriate standards for the children of South Carolina.
- I have worked to make sure that my students are always working hard to meet the highest learning standards possible. I have worked in a variety of schools, which have included charter, virtual, and traditional. This has allowed me to see a variety of students and how they learn.
- I would like to be a part of the group that helps to develop new, high-level standards, appropriate for the people of South Carolina.
- As a retired educator, I want to remain active in serving in our state in terms of educational issues. I participated in the 2008 ELA Standards adoption and feel I have much to contribute. As a parent of two elementary children, I want to ensure the academic standards used by their teachers are rigorous and developmentally appropriate.
- I would like to serve on the review panel to be given a chance to help South Carolina by giving input on standards. These standards will help our students to compete in the competitive job market.
- It is important to maintain high standards for South Carolina students. Teachers and students have moved in a positive direction with regard to raising the bar for rigor and student ownership of learning, and I would be honored to serve with a panel of educators that works to allow this transition to continue and creates a set of standards that keeps the academic bar high, yet realistic.
- I think it would be an honor to serve on a team writing rigorous standards to measure achievement in the state of South Carolina.
- As a teacher, I see the importance of clear and high level standards. I have experience in curriculum writing and implementing standards-based initiatives for school reform. I

have completed training for Literacy Leaders through the SCDE. I am also completing a doctorate in Educational Leadership, with the goal of impacting education for the children of SC. I believe in public education, and I send my children to these schools, so I have a huge stake in the Standards reform.

- I would like to stay abreast of the standards so that we, as educators, are able to produce students who are able to compete in a global society. Serving on this committee will give me firsthand experience with the standards. Also, upon last implementation of the HSAP, my students' scores superseded the state's.
- As an educator I believe it is essential to grow both as a leader and as a learner. In the words of Gandhi, we are to: "Live as if we were to die tomorrow, but learn as if we were to live forever." Learning should always be at the core of our existence, for when we elect to stop learning, we essentially die a spiritual death. Being part of the review panel is an opportunity to expand my understanding of our current ELA standards. It is an occasion to move beyond the parameters of my classroom, school, and my district and into the functionality of the secondary educational process in its entirety. I want to build upon my current understanding and essentially help both colleagues and students alike, beyond those with whom I have an immediate connection. To grow as a leader one must be willing to see education in a multitude of perspectives, and I believe time spent serving on this panel will provide me with such an opportunity.
- All classroom instruction is standards based. It is critical that the South Carolina State Standards are some of the best standards in the nation. I am passionate about classroom instruction and I want what is best for students now and in the future.
- My interest in serving the SCDE as an advisory panel member grows from my professional and personal involvement in the education of fellow South Carolinians. As an instructor in our state technical system, I see both the preparedness of students entering higher education and the requirements of the industries in which they seek employment. South Carolina's classroom teachers and students face many challenges in staying abreast of contemporary pedagogical and performance expectations. While the current emphasis on STEM studies provides a worthy goal, their companions in the liberal arts must not be forgotten or we risk the loss of the innovation which only comes from the cultivated imagination. As a parent, I am concerned for the future of South Carolina, not that it is necessarily imperiled but, without constant attention from its citizens and educational officers, it would soon suffer. Students are done a disservice when they are not challenged, and the career of a teacher is incomplete if they have not helped a student to fill some gap in knowledge or skill. With the proper goals and support, the students and teachers of South Carolina can reach any level of performance.

- I believe teachers have important perspectives as classroom practitioners. It would be an honor to be one of the classroom representatives. As a teacher who embraces constructivism and authentic learning experiences, I'd love to have the opportunity to join my colleagues as we review the standards, leading students to higher levels of thinking, while also making modifications based on South Carolina's specific strengths and needs. What an incredible way to serve the students of our state!
- I am dedicated to the education of South Carolina public school students. It is important to make sure our Standards will provide our students with the most effective, rigorous education that will render them college and career ready.
- As a Literacy Coach, it is my responsibility to inform and strengthen teachers in our district concerning state standards. In my efforts to serve as an instructional resource to our district, I must have a thorough knowledge of our state standards. If provided the opportunity to serve on this panel, I will enthusiastically work to create, strengthen, and revise our current state standards to reflect our state's educational needs and values. With my current expertise and experience, I am adequately equipped to positively contribute to this professional, collaborative initiative.
- First and foremost I love teaching and children! One of my favorite parts of teaching is researching activities and lesson plans. On a typical week I might spend 12-15 hours researching and writing lesson plans. I enjoy diving into a standard and planning lessons and activities that will allow all my students to understand and apply the skills. In addition, I have certification in both early childhood and elementary education, as well as experience teaching in both areas. Therefore, I can bring knowledge and experience from different angles about what might be developmentally appropriate and what would work for that particular grade level. In conclusion, I spent many years writing curriculum for an upstate district and found that this opportunity was the greatest professional development that I have ever acquired! It allowed me to dive into standards and become more knowledgeable about skills, assessments, and differentiation. When professional development opportunities such as these are presented to me, I always try and volunteer. This is valuable to me as an educator in these situations because it not only benefits me but it also benefits the countless number of students I will impact for years to come.
- I have a compassion for the education in South Carolina. I live and work in what is called the corridor of shame. Our children are capable of achieving. It is important to ensure there is rigor in what we teach. I have extensive background in the process of teaching. I became the principal of a Palmetto Priority School and within two years, we were no longer a PPS. I will work hard to help with the process. I currently serve as a Literacy Director.

- She is passionate about the students in SC having rigorous standards. She would be an asset to the review panel.
- Having taught English Language Arts for many years, I know the impact and importance of well-written state standards. I would like to be a part of the process to insure that the new state standards for South Carolina are well-focused and balance both literature and literacy. As an educator who has served the people of South Carolina for many years, I look forward to the opportunity to help create a framework of learning that will help our students be successful in the 21st century. I believe that the experience that I bring to the table will benefit the review panel due to the many types of opportunities I have had as an educator. My work as a classroom teacher at both the middle and secondary levels followed by my work as an Instructional Facilitator and finally as an Assistant Principal will all be invaluable to the creation of standards we can be proud of as educators of SC.
- I am excited about the opportunity to assist in shaping South Carolina's new high-level standards. My teaching career spans 15 years (13 in second grade). I am qualified to serve on this panel. I am knowledgeable and experienced in first and second grade curriculum standards. As a classroom teacher, I am charged with implementing curriculum standards. In order to do so effectively, I deconstruct standards. I work to understand what my students need to be able to do and, most importantly, why. I research best practices by which to teach curriculum standards successfully. In addition to research, my knowledge derives from actual hands-on experiences with curriculum and students. I know the sub-skills necessary for mastery of new skills. I also understand the misconceptions commonly held by students for each skill. I value collaboration with colleagues. Collaborating with my peers has been a mutually beneficial experience. Education is an area in which I am passionate. I am pursuing a graduate degree in Educational Leadership. My studies encourage me to think deeply about issues in education, such as the achievement gap, teacher effectiveness, and standards-based education. I have the opportunity to collaborate with educators from around the country. Serving on this educational panel will afford me the opportunity to devote my knowledge, ideas, and experience to the creation of high-level standards worthy of the students of South Carolina.
- As a veteran teacher and curriculum developer, I feel it is my civic duty to contribute my time and talents by serving as a member of this review panel. I am very passionate about the art of pedagogy and know that my presence on this team will only serve as an asset. Currently, I am an Instructional Leader. As an onsite, full-time professional developer, my primary responsibility is to assist classroom teachers in implementing the most up-to-date research-based best practices in ELA and mathematics. Daily, I work diligently to

remain abreast in the most recent and effective instructional practices; communicate research to teachers in a clear and concise manner; and collaborate with teachers in identifying and implementing instructional practices and curriculum that will improve student achievement. Over the past three years I've worked extensively with my teachers in developing their pedagogical understanding while transitioning from our prior South Carolina state standards to the newly adopted Common Core State Standards. I am well versed in both sets of standards; therefore I have clear analysis of the strengths and weaknesses in mathematics and ELA. As a member of this review panel, I will strive to ensure our state standards are fashioned in a manner that is truly focused and cohesive. I will work with others to establish educational expectations that provide a balance of developing both conceptual and procedural understandings. I sincerely feel performance standards are a necessary part of education. I believe that standards provide order and a roadmap for all educators to follow. This roadmap is a necessity in ensuring that every student is receiving an equitable education. Standards are not remote fragments of information outlined on a piece of paper; they are the living, breathing, functioning aspects of the world around us. I can't think of one thing that I see, hear, think, do, or say that cannot be linked to a standard. I cannot think of one standard that doesn't directly or indirectly connect to another. I have been gifted and extensively trained in making these types of valuable educational connections. While I am well versed in both math and ELA, my preference for work on this panel would be mathematics. However, I am willing to serve in the area of most need. If afforded the opportunity to serve my state in this manner, I will bring my creativity, wealth of knowledge, and hands on experience to the team. I can only be an asset to the panel. I sincerely hope I receive the opportunity to speak of my passion in person. Thanks for your time and consideration.

- As an aspiring educational administrator, I feel that this would be a great opportunity to further understand the development and evaluation of curriculum standards that meet the needs of our teachers, students, community, and state as a whole. With all the different stakeholders, it's important to ensure that we have a curriculum that reflects 21st century learning skills and the every changing scope of education, both social and academic.
- I would love the opportunity to use the wealth of knowledge I have gained in my years as a classroom teacher to have a positive and lasting impact on student learning across our state. I have worked for many years with a diverse population of young learners-ESOL, Special Needs, Gifted, Low SES, etc. This has afforded me the ability to learn firsthand what is developmentally appropriate and right for a variety of learners. Over the past two years, I have served on a curriculum committee for the successful implementation of CCSS for Mathematics. I have seen what has worked well for students and what hasn't. It would be very rewarding to be able to work with stakeholders and educators across our

state to help develop standards which will help our students become successful in the classroom and beyond.

- My interest in the educational progress of SC is passionate, and I would like to contribute to the development of ELA Standards. I taught social studies and language arts for 34 years. I have worked as an independent literacy consultant throughout SC and in other states for more than a decade. These experiences have afforded me the rare opportunity to observe and address the academic needs and achievements of many schools and districts. Since leaving the classroom in 2007, I have done academic research, attended conferences, and developed workshops and demonstrations using the most current information.